Balding
7-20-99

RECORDING SECRETARIES:
MRS. SUMNER J. COLLINS,
479 MARSHALL ST., MILWAUKEE.
MRS. W. H. CHEEVER,
229 TWENTY-THIRD ST., MILWAUKEE.

PRESIDENT,
MRS. A. H. VEDDER,
199 TENTH ST., MILWAUKEE.
TREASURER OF CONTINGENT FUND,
MRS. A. G. WEISSERT,
101 EIGHTEENTH ST., MILWAUKEE.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES:
MRS. T. E. BALDING,
212 PROSPECT AVE., MILWAUKEE.
MRS. WM. J. McELROY,
3329 CEDAR ST., MILWAUKEE.

1899 JUL 19 PM 7

Woman's Synodical Missionary Society,

of the Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin.

Milwaukee.

My dear Mrs. Dickson.

I think that circular letter you refer to was misleading and I would like to explain a little. It was the intention to have the pledges for the Home Board go out in that letter, but we had not them in time which we regretted then, but have come to think it will be much more effectual to have them in a letter by themselves as commanding more attention. I sent for them for this purpose & they will either go in our regular quarterly or with our program which will be sent soon.

We have given to the Foreign Board $2538.00 and to the Home $2.219.56 1800 + Jan. 418
also to the Home Bpecs annuity to Mini
$100.00 - 135.00 to Home Board. To
S. School - and 62 maintain in our

own state also to Roswell academy. which certainly makes a larger showing for the Home than the Foreign work.

Of the pledges to the Foreign - Miss Morrison is only a suggestion from one Presbytery and nothing has been given her - Miss McDermid receives only a small sum from one society (3/15,00). Mrs Clark is the only one supported entirely by us - The others are supported by the Genl Board & if not - carried the rest is supplied by the Board same as your board Our Synodical Mrs are always making plans for new parts & Mrs that develop more rapidly than the churches can meet - and then Synodical Mrs do not realize how much we do outside of Wisconsin

Will you send exact amount we give to Miss McMorgal & Miss McBeth also how much the cost & support of Miss Hays in Santa Fe would be We feel it would be much better to cut down the small outside sums we contribute in Missionaries, Teachers.

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Woman's Synodical Missionary Society,

of the Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin.

Milwaukee.

We hope you will be able to send us a strong and interesting paper to Synod. Also some one who would be very interesting for a Home Missionary Meeting for Tuesday evening Oct 18th. Some leaders request that the Home & Foreign could not have the officers live on your way from Minneapolis to the Church in Omro's conference would have explained more things. We feel that the synod is so interested in Home and Foreign work and is doing so much for it.

Sincerely yours.

Mrs. [illegible] Harriet Balding
Cor Secy.
212 Prospect Ave.

Dec. 17th

SECRETARIES:
OF MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE,
MRS. GEORGE OGDEN,
133 EIGHTEENTH ST., MILWAUKEE.
OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR,
MISS LOUISE HANSEN,
JANESVILLE.
OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK,
MISS MATELLA CALKINS,
JANESVILLE.

PRESIDENT,
MRS. A. H. VEDDER,
199 TENTH ST., MILWAUKEE.

JUL 17 1899

ECRETARIES:
Ogden
7-25-99
. BILL,
FOND DU LAC.
. MEIXSELL,
2218 VINE ST., MILWAUKEE.

Woman's Synodical Missionary Society,

of the Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin.

Milwaukee, July 14 '99

My dear Mrs Pierson

Late letters to Mrs Vedder and Mrs. Baldwin suggest that the interest in the work for Home Missions, in Wisconsin, might be increased by putting it under the care of a separate organization. As the President of an auxiliary society, and one who tries to keep in touch with our presbyterial organization, I am much interested and have been studying the signs as indicated by our last quarterly letter, to which you refer.

I think some of your conclusions have been hasty; in regard to our

support so many foreign
missions, as the figures show,
we do not entirely support them.
Would it be a mistake to take so many
more than we can care for, I believe,
that it arises from the fact that
some presbyteries and certain C. E.
societies, being interested in mission-
aries from their own neighborhood
will contribute more for them
than they would otherwise give and
so in the end more money is
raised than if we insisted upon
paying the entire salaries of
[illegible] missionaries. Miss Mowman
has not been adopted by any Synod
society, because it is not able to
provide for those already assigned
to her.

The report which I enclose shows
that the amount contributed to the

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MISS MATELLA CALKINS,
JANESVILLE.

PRESIDENT,
MRS. A. H. VEDDER,
199 TENTH ST., MILWAUKEE.

SECRETARIES:
OF LITERATURE,
MRS. A. W. BILL,
FOND DU LAC.
OF FREEDMEN,
MRS. GEO. MEIXSELL,
2218 VINE ST., MILWAUKEE.

1

Woman's Synodical Missionary Society,

of the Presbyterian Church in Wisconsin.

Milwaukee.

Home and Freedman's Boards, to which may be added $28.30 raised by the Ch'd Society for the debt of the Home Board, makes the total, without the Foreign work very nearly as much as that given to the foreign work. The northern part of our State is a home mission field, and our ladies give a great deal through our churches, which are again called upon to assist weak churches in the southern part of the State where a strong, German, rationalistic spirit is harder to combat than absolute ignorance. The Sunday School of which I am a member gives $50 a year to help support a mission S.S. in Milwaukee

and voted $25 towards the debt of the Freedman's Board, neither of which amount ever passed into the hands of the presbyterial treasurer to be reported to the Woman's Board.

While most earnestly desiring to adopt any plan which shall aid the work of Home Missions I can not think that anything will be gained by making the machinery more complex. In Illinois they are talking of consolidation. In my own church I would not dare to risk the change; every woman has annually the opportunity to contribute to the home, or foreign work, or both, as she may elect and if one treasurer gets more names could. I am inclined to think that if the Board would suggest the names of one or two missionaries in

3

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Woman's Synodical Missionary Society,

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Milwaukee.

Wish we could work up an interest it might be a good thing. In Milwaukee Presbytery the personal interest in Mrs. Clark helps greatly. The scholarships could then be left for the Sunday schools and bands. By the way I believe it was understood that Miss Dee Belt was to be paid out of the general fund and no special pledges have been asked for her. What is her salary? You wrote of two ways of raising it; would there name be one that you would think best to suggest? I should like to have also the name of some Dakota Missionary, and the salaries of each; together with any other

information you may think best to
send. The matter can then be
acted upon at the annual meeting
when we shall have with us a
representation of your Board

Sincerely yours
(Mrs. G. W.) E. N. Ogden
133 - 18th & 11 Street
Milwaukee
Wisconsin

In Mrs. James (not yet acknowledged - waited for suggestions?) Added 7-29-89

Dear Mrs. Peirson:

My wrist is still too lame to write a long letter. Please therefore read between the lines the thoughts of Christian courtesy to which I would like to give expression and which I am sure you would be pleased to read.

By yesterday's mail I sent my marked copy of the Minutes of Wisconsin (the Synod) which I trust that you and Mrs. James will study from an impartial standpoint to help understand the Presbyterian situation in Wisconsin.

If it could be studied with the earnest, tearful appeals ringing in your ears of the Reverends Smith and Brown for "Home Missions in Wisconsin" your hearts would be moved to send more help to Wisconsin.

The need of religious teaching and preaching in the rapidly developing mining and lumber regions is appalling, as the financial contributions of the Church are so inadequate to supply the need.

These Home Missionaries plead for Home Mission Schools, Churches and Libraries for Wisconsin.

With these appeals sounding in our ears, one questions the duty of carrying Missionary work beyond Jerusalem, - and yet, - the Master's command includes the regions round about, - unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

The Synodical Officers have always been and are earnest Christian women - and because they are Christians they have been and are Home Missionary women. beginning their Home missionary work with their

ours hearts, making sure that they are right in the sight of the Lord, then reaching out to their neighbors, (white and black) to Alaska, to the Philippines, to Japan and on and on and on to Point Barrow.

Wisconsin women I have known since 1863; and through Home Missionary boxes since 1852 or 3 and they are faithful, conscientious, self-denying women, giving loving service, without hope of reward and are worthy of all praise and do not deserve the censure of having any portion of the work they have done so well taken from them. I have not heard one complaint of too much to do. In fact, they are not willing to have assistants, only as an incentive to interest as many women as possible in active work and to have women prepared to take places made vacant by removals.

If the proposition to form a new Synodical organization is a personal attack there is nothing to be said. If it comes from a desire to report a larger number of organizations, then a protest might be wise. It has taken years to educate the ninety women out of the hundred to understand the power of organized effort and to be ready to make the steady, strong pull which succeeds. Personally, I hope that no attempt will be made to insert a disorganizing wedge into the Synodical Missionary Society.

Milwaukee Presbyterial women are close at home and during the year I have visited La Crosse, Winnebago and Madison Presbyteries and had my trunk in the hall packed and locked to visit Chippewa Presbytery and Minneapolis, but any attempt to leave home would have been heartless and in direct opposition to the plain leadings of Providence. (Our sick loved one is liable to pass away any time but his mother and sister are with him at our home.)

At La Crosse, I met thirty or more ladies in my room at the hotel and talked to them on the superiority of the Missionary Society to every other Society or Club, because it had the only true altruistic motive for being; - that in every Church the Missionary Society should be led by the women of the highest Christian culture, also that to be a Christian was in the truest sense of the word to be a Missionary, that the proof was full and clear.

At Wausau it was only necessary to speak a few words of approval of plans and, praise for the excellence of the work accomplished.

At Lodi, it seemed best to urge the cultivation of the Spirit of Presbyterianism in the Christian Endeavor work for Missions.

In regard to the June Letter, the desired statistics about Home Missions and its special work in Wisconsin could not be gathered in time to publish. If a conference could have been had in Minneapolis or Milwaukee the Home Missionary showing might have been made, The delay was not a source of regret as Wisconsin women are so much more interested in Home than in Foreign Missions and I had thought of preparing a special leaflet, of W. H. M. Statistics to send with the provisional program this month.

Let me re-capitulate

Home Missions $2.219.56 plus $130.00 for the debt, plus boxes valued at $1.067.08 = $3.416.64 plus all of the work done by the women in the 94 Home Missionary Churches in the Synod of Wisconsin, plus all of the money contributed in the self-sustaining Churches for Mission Churches, Schools

and Missionary Sunday Schools in Wisconsin, plus the contributions of the Young Women in the Christian Endeavor Societies and in the Sunday Schools for Home Missions. The question has been how to obtain an approximate estimate of this plus work in order to make a correct showing. Your hearts would ache if you could know of the self-denials of some of our women to maintain a Missionary Society and a Sunday School.

I have been thinking seriously for a long time that it would be a good plan to take six or eight Missionary teachers and drop all other special objects - in the Synod of Wisconsin - putting all money into the General Fund and having it all go towards the support of these six or eight teachers - as is done in the Foreign part of our work - If you deduct the $2,538.11. from the amount needed to support the seven teachers on the Foreign field, I think about the same could be done for seven teachers on the Home field - Would not the massing of the work make a more stimulating incentive for increased contributions?

Please say to Mrs. James that Mrs. Kimmel of Milwaukee Mrs. Phelps of Madison, Mrs. Fifield and Mrs. Vaughn Marquis of Ashland and others were at Minneapolis and I suppose attended the meetings. I did not give up going until the last day - Mrs. Sumner Collins invited Mrs. Balding to go with her in Mr. Collins' car, for some reason they did not go. The trip, with the hotel bills is expensive and the money is needed to carry on the work - We have not the heart to take the money from the Treasury for such expenses -

I hope that you have a card similar to the one enclosed which I could buy to circulate among our Societies - For I firmly believe that every woman should be handed

such a card when she unites with the Church. I think that the missionary work should be the first work taken up by every communicant. The trouble is not lack of interest or of self-denials on the part of the officers and members of the Societies, but on account of the influence of the spirit of the times especially in our cities and States where the foreign element with its customs prevails.

So many of our good women are interested in needed public charities, like Mission Kindergartens, Rescue Missions, Young Women's Christian Associations; Vacation Schools, Industrial Schools, Humane Societies, Farm Schools, Open Air Charities, etc. that the work of the Church covers a large territory. I cannot write as I would like to talk. I find that I have not stated the situation as I would - but my time is short and I must close, trusting that Mrs. James Corbit asserts itself yourself and other ladies will feel differently when the minutes of Synod have been carefully studied.

Please prepare a paragraph for the September Circular letter, and I hope that it will recommend the adoption of several Missionary teachers beside Miss Mc. Beth and Miss Mc. Mongial. We supposed until your letter was received that Miss Mc. Beth's salary was paid from the General Synodical Fund, as are the salaries of the Foreign Board teachers - Some Church Societies that are especially interested in certain teachers indicate it when the money is sent, but the balance is made up from the total receipts.

Cordially yours,

L. R. Scudder

Address for the present
P.O. Box 498
Oconomowoc. Wisconsin

Sifton
7-18-01

Milwaukee, September 15th.,1901.

Mrs. F.H.Pierson,

156 Fifth Ave., New York.

Dear Madam:

At a quarterly meeting of the Woman's Synodical Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church of Wisconsin, held in June, the following action bearing upon the corporation of the society was taken:

It was moved and carried to reconsider the action of the previous meeting whereby the Synodical Society shall organize a corporation which shall consist of eighteen trustees to be known as the Trustees of the Woman's Synodical Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church of Wisconsin.

It was then moved that we incorporate the society as a whole and that the articles of the revised constitution be accepted and adopted as read. The motion was carried.

Mrs. H. A. Sifton,
Recording Secretary.